

# URI Higher Education Initiative for College & Career Readiness

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## NEWSLETTER

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### **College Readiness & Common Core State Standards**

#### ***States' Progress in Implementing Common Core State Standards***

The *Center for Education Policy (CEP)*, a national independent advocate for public education, has tracked states' progress in implementing the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for the past two years. This report released in January 2012 resulted from a survey of deputy superintendents or their designees and includes findings about states' strategies, policies, and challenges during the second year of implementing the CCSS. [Read Report](#) [View Appendix](#)

#### ***Adaptive Testing Evolves to Assess Common-Core Skills***

Nationally, two coalitions have received federal funding to develop English/language arts and mathematics tests for the common standards. Both coalitions—the [Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium](#) and the [Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers](#), or PARCC—have said their assessments will feature high-tech, interactive questions that incorporate video and graphics and are designed both to identify what students know and to be more engaging. [Read More](#)

### **Resources**

#### ***Short Videos for K-12 Educators Offer a Wide Range of Subjects***

The Teaching Channel, a non-profit organization, showcases effective teaching practices in American schools in a series of short videos produced by a team of video production experts, education advisors and classroom teachers. Viewers can watch classroom lessons aligned with Common Core State Standards for grades K-12. [Read More](#)

#### ***Archived Webinar about CCSS for Mathematics: A Closer Look at the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics-Webinar Archive***

In this webinar from December 2010, **Dr. William McCallum**, Distinguished Professor of Mathematics and head of the University of Arizona's mathematics department and a lead author of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for Mathematics answers questions about CCSS including the

relationship between the Standards for Mathematical Practice and the Standards for Mathematical Content. For archived webinar and related PowerPoint [click here](#)

## **English Language Arts**

### ***Literacy Implementation Guidance for the ELA Common Core State Standards***

The International Reading Association (IRA) announces the release of a set of guidelines for the successful implementation of the English Language Arts (ELA) Common Core State Standards (CCSS). These guidelines address the need for a link between reading instruction and the ELA CCSS. They provide teachers and educational leaders with recommendations on how to integrate many of the central ideas of the standards into effective practice. The guidelines capture the most pressing issues in clear language, point out their significance for those responsible for implementation, and then offer clear guidance on accomplishing the task at hand. **In each instance, the committee has given bulleted recommendations that address the identified challenge by offering practical strategies for moving forward.** The guidelines white paper/statement entitled *Literacy Implementation Guidance for the ELA Common Core State Standards* can be seen [here](#).

### ***A Radio Blog: College and Career Readiness in Writing***

A 37-minute radio blog conversation with NCTE's Kent Williamson and Professor Cathy Fliescher of Eastern Michigan University on adolescent literacy and the habits of mind essential for student success in college writing. [Listen Here](#)

### ***Establishing a Staircase of Text Complexity***

One of the shifts the English Language Arts Common Core Standards is challenging us to make is implementing a staircase of text complexity. In order to prepare students for the complexity of college and career ready texts, each grade level requires a “step” of growth on the “staircase.” [Read More](#)

### ***Balancing Fiction and Nonfiction***

A resource page dedicated to the cyber conversation about the Common Core State Standards’ call for increased reading of nonfiction texts in English Language Arts. [Read More](#)

## **Mathematics**

### ***The Pedagogical Agenda of Common Core Math Standards***

Will the Implementation of Common Core Math Standards Make Things Worse? Barry Garelick discusses his concern for the implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in Mathematics. Garelick discusses what he (and others) perceives as an emphasis, not on the content standards, but on the 8 Standards of Mathematical Practice (SMP) with process “trumping” content. Although he concedes that the math standards may be an improvement over existing standards in some states, Garelick believes they are still deficient. [Read More](#)

### ***Exploring Mathematics College Readiness in the United States***

States are making progress in implementing common core state standards. Drs. Nancy J. McCormick and Marva S. Lucas at Middle Tennessee State University review the following questions about mathematics college readiness: *What is mathematics college readiness? What is the status of college*

*readiness in mathematics? Why is it important? Why is there a deficit? What efforts are underway to address this problem?* [Read More](#)

### **Utah: Educators Craft Own Math E-Books for Common Core**

Mathematics educators in Utah with support from the State Office of Education are developing a set of e-textbooks for high school math. The decision was prompted by the increasing frustration caused by the lack of textbooks that reflect the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. The new statewide policy in Utah that reconfigured math courses into a more “integrated” teaching model also factored into their decision. [Read More](#)

### **Project News**

***The wiki for The University of Rhode Island Higher Education Initiative for College and Career Readiness is alive and active!*** [Go to Wiki](#)

Updated on a regular basis throughout the remainder of 2012, this wiki space is a place where you can find detailed and specific resources and information regarding the our initiative, issues and information related to the *Common Core State Standards (CCSS)* and *The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)*, and news and updates in world of college and career readiness. See the wiki [HERE](#). Bookmark for easy and quick access and check back often!

### ***Three Symposia Scheduled Exploring the Question: What is the role of higher education in the area of college and career readiness?***

The URI *Higher Education Initiative for College and Career Readiness* will be hosting three symposia to foster continued thought and dialogue about the role higher education plays in college and career readiness. Two of the smaller symposia will be for members of the URI faculty and immediate stakeholders. The third, and larger, symposia will be for representatives from the various colleges and universities throughout Rhode Island. Please check the wiki and future newsletters for updates and meeting agendas.